

CORRESPONDENCE.

MENTAL SYMPTOMS FOLLOWING UPON USE OF CONTINUOUS SUPRA-PUBIC DRAINAGE OF THE BLADDER.

MR. EDITOR: Dr. Wyeth's report of cases in which mental symptoms supervened after all effects of the trauma had subsided in cases of supra-pubic cystotomy, which report appeared in the *ANNALS OF SURGERY* for January, 1893, leads me to report the following case:

Wm. M., German, aged eighty-eight years, had a supra-pubic cystotomy made on September 16, 1892, on account of an enlarged prostate, with chloroform anaesthesia. The record shows that all went well until at the end of two weeks when, with the wound healed up to the catheter which was retained, cerebral symptoms developed which, together with general failure of vital powers, ended in death on October 19, 1892, just one month and one day after the operation. There was nothing about the wound or patient denoting uræmia, iodoform poisoning, or sepsis. The cerebral symptoms consisted of delirium, hallucinations, delusions, peevishness, childishness, somnolence and wakefulness, the wakefulness being more marked at the beginning and the somnolence toward the last of the illness. I looked upon these symptoms as due to changes likely to occur in the aged, and in no way related to the operation until I read Dr. Wyeth's report and the discussion upon it, when I concluded it possible that the relation of cause and effect might exist, though I have no explanation for it.

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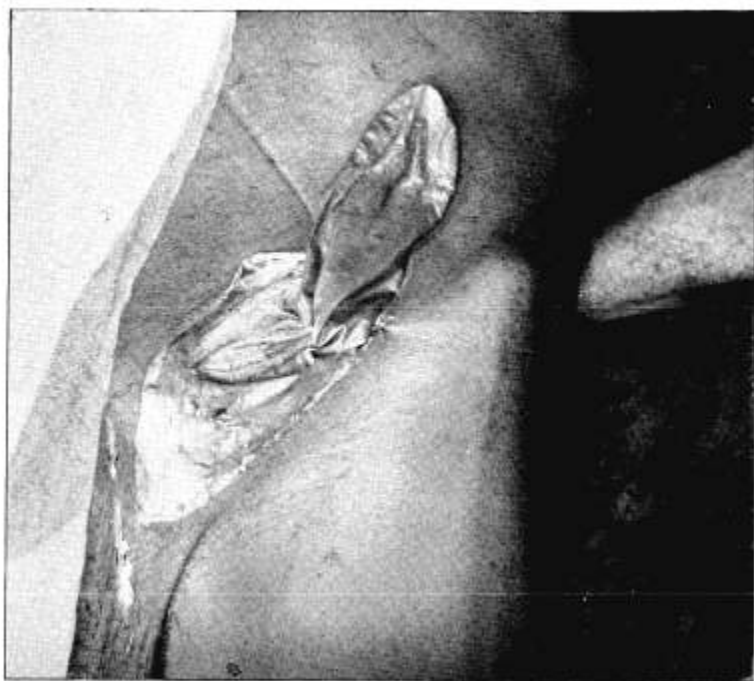


FIG. 1.—Sac dissected and raised from canal to internal opening.

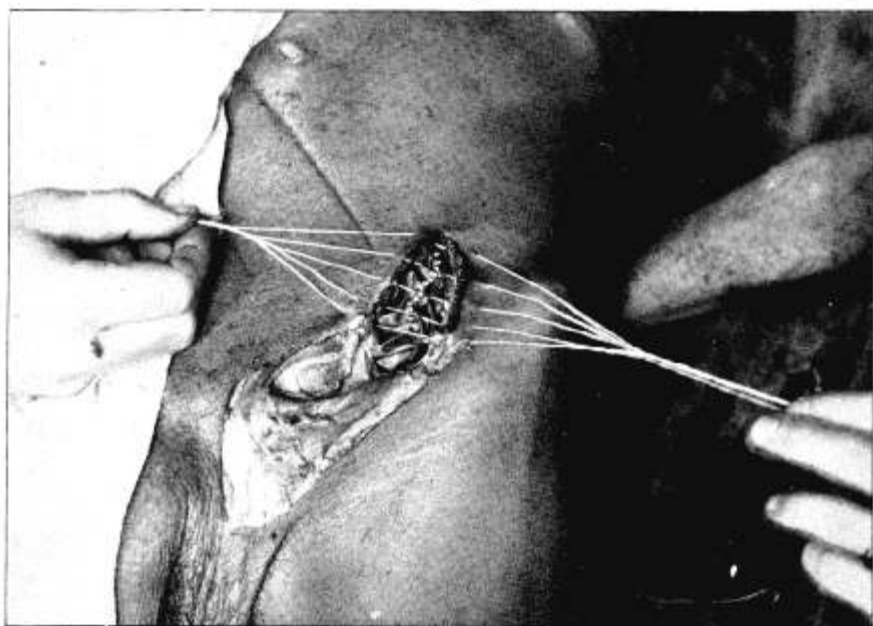


FIG. 2.—Sac raised into abdominal incision, fixed with deep sutures, cut off and closed by absorbent suture.